



DEPARTMENT of CONSUMER AFFAIRS

2002 LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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The Consumer Affairs Act of 1970, Business and Profession Code Section 300 et al, which is the governing law for the Department of Consumer Affairs, requires the Department to represent the interests of California consumers before the State Legislature.

This Legislative Digest summarizes legislation that the Department reviewed on behalf of California consumers during the 2002 legislative year.

We hope that it serves as a useful resource for identifying legislation of interest.

We look forward to working with you on behalf of California during the 2003-2004 legislative session. This report can also be accessed on the Department's web site at www.dca.ca.gov

Please don't hesitate to contact Kristy Wiese, Deputy Director of the Legislative and Regulatory Review Division, at (916) 327-5196 with any questions or comments.

Yours truly,

Kathleen Hamilton, Director
Department of Consumer Affairs

Foreword

The Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) 2002 Legislative Digest is a summary of significant consumer protection legislation introduced during the 2001-2002 legislative session and finalized in 2002.

We have organized the Digest by subject category, bill number, and chapter number. The three major subject categories are **General Consumer Protection**, **Professional and Business Regulation**, and **DCA Administration**. Each category contains numerous subcategories. Some bills may be referenced in more than one category or subcategory.

Several of the 2001 bills were carried over to the 2002 session. Also, many two-year bills were placeholder or "spot" bills that were substantially amended in the second year of the 2001-2002 session. Unless otherwise indicated, enacted bills become effective on January 1, 2003. For brevity, most entries are cross-referenced wherever appropriate.

The **Contents** page lists each subject heading within the three subject categories. The subject headings within each category refer you to the page number where the summaries appear for each subject.

The **Bill Summaries** are organized numerically by bill number under each subcategory. This section provides a brief summary of each bill, the bill's author, and its disposition. Unlike past years, we are now listing omnibus bills under each affected program. AB and SB indicate Assembly and Senate bills, respectively.

The **Appendix** contains a Bill Number Index, a Chaptered Bill Index, a Department of Consumer Affairs Directory, and an overview of the Legislative Process.

All department and agency references are for California entities, unless noted otherwise.

While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this digest, please refer to the California codes for exact statutory citations.

For further information on bills, relevant code sections, the Governor's veto messages, or bill authors, you can consult www.leginfo.ca.gov or your local legislator. For additional copies of the digest, please consult www.dca.ca.gov or contact the Department's Division of Legislative and Regulatory Review at (916) 327-5196.